## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Tuesday, June 12, 2012

Contact: John McManus

Tennessee Department of Human Resources

Office: (615) 532-7685

## TN Department of Human Resources Awarded Top Honors from HR Excellence Program

State Government Praised by Business Leaders for Best Human Resource Practices

NASHVILLE – The Tennessee Department of Human Resources has been awarded two '2012 HR Excellence Facet Awards' by the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce and the Middle Tennessee Society for Human Resource Management. The awards recognize the department for its outstanding performance in the areas of HR Strategy and Organizational Learning & Development.

"I'm extremely honored that the Tennessee Department of Human Resources was chosen by business leaders in the Nashville area to be recognized for our strategic programs and innovative strategies," said Human Resources Commissioner Rebecca Hunter. "State government is in the process of implementing the best possible HR practices, and I'm humbled that top business leaders chose to recognize our efforts to transform the workforce of state government into the most effective and efficient engine for the citizens of Tennessee."

The HR Excellence Facet Awards are presented to the Tennessee Department of Human Resources at a transformational point in state government. In April of this year, Tennessee Governor Bill Haslam signed into law the groundbreaking TEAM Act, updating state government's employment system to recruit, retain, and reward the best and brightest state employees to serve Tennessee taxpayers in the most customer-focused, efficient, and effective way. The new law reforms the civil service system created in 1939 by improving the state's hiring practices, performance evaluations, appeals process, merit pay options, and the reduction in force process.

"The taxpayers of Tennessee have reason to be proud of their state's incredibly impressive Department of Human Resources, now recognized by business leaders in the private sector for its outstanding practices and remarkable results," said Deputy Governor Claude Ramsey. "Once again, Tennessee state government is setting an example of excellence that we can all be proud of."

"I'm incredibly fortunate to have one of the most dedicated and strategic teams in state government," said Human Resources Commissioner Rebecca Hunter. "These awards would not have been possible without the hard work, commitment, and extraordinary teamwork of everyone here at the Department of Human Resources."

The Tennessee Department of Human Resources is charged with providing innovative human resources leadership and solutions through effective and efficient workforce management for state government's diverse array of departments and agencies. Tennessee state government is the largest single employer in the state, employing nearly 45,000 dedicated individuals. The Department is responsible for meeting the needs of employees in all of Tennessee's 95 counties serving in more than 1,400 different types of rewarding state careers.

For more information on the Tennessee Department of Human Resources, please visit www.tn.gov/dohr.